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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/605,236	09/17/2003	Ching-Fu Hung	11644-US-PA	3278
31561	7590	01/13/2005	EXAMINER	
JIANQ CHYUN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE			HUYNH, KIM NGOC	
7 FLOOR-1, NO. 100			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ROOSEVELT ROAD, SECTION 2			2182	
TAIPEI, 100				
TAIWAN			DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/605,236	HUNG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kim Huynh	2182	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 September 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,4,5,7-11 and 14-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2,3,6,12,13 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 17 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

-DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-9 are objected to because of the following informalities: claim 1 recites a data exchange USB device having “an USB interface module comprising: a USB host ..., a USB device, and a functional module”. Due to *the improper indentation* the claims seems to indicate that the interface module includes the USB host, USB device circuit AND the functional module instead of the USB device having a USB interface module and a functional module wherein the USB interface module includes “a USB host ... and a USB device...” as disclosed. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 4, 7-11, 14-16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Saito et al. (US 2004/0042138 A1).

Claims 1 and 10-11, Saito discloses a data exchange USB device A directly connected to another USB device B to exchange data in either a host or device mode

(both devices A and B are dual role devices, see Fig. 1B), wherein the USB device A having a USB interface (see Fig. 2) having host and device core circuits (ID circuit connected to ground or open), for communicating with the other device at respective mode (as detected by detector 12/150). Please note the interface circuit is a single circuit operates in either host or device mode (host or device core circuit) depending on the condition of the ID connection in the same manner the interface circuit (Fig. 2 of applicant).

Saito also discloses the device A having a functional module 112 connected to the USB interface having a mass storage device for storing data and automatically accessing a storage device of the another USB device operating at the device mode. USB devices are defines to be digital camera, CD-RW drive, DVD drive, video camera, telephones (par. 241 and 243), each of which includes mass storage.

Saito discloses the functional module 112 controlled by a user operating as a host or device mode and outputting a mode signal (par. 202 and Fig. 9, user connect the device in either host or device mode and detector 112 for detecting the ID signal)

Claims 4 and 14, Saito discloses the functional module having a buffer device (RAM 517-537) for temporarily storing data and a control device (CPU 510-530) controlling the mass storage.

Claims 7-8 and 15-16, Saito discloses the mass storage device having a nonvolatile storage media being flash memory and a storage interface (inherent in memory card of digital or video camera).

Claims 9 and 19 recites the combination of claims 4, 7-8, 14-16 and therefore rejected accordingly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 5 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Saito.

Saito disclose all the limitations of claims 1 and 10 above, Saito does not explicitly discloses the USB device includes an analog to digital codec circuit connected to buffer device in MP3 format. However, as noted above Saito discloses the device can be of various types having audio capability (video, CD-RW or DVD drives, telephones TV). MP3 has also been the standard in the industry for processing audio signals due to its portability. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to realize that the USB device of Saito would include a A/D codec in MP3 format in order to process audio signals and take advantage of the portability of the audio files since Saito discloses that his dual role device including devices that processing audio signals.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 2-3, 6, 12-13, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter

Claims 2-3, 6, 12-13, and 20 recite, *inter alia*, the USB device for connecting directly with another USB device having the switching configuration or the functional module having first-third buffer exchanging data with the other device as claimed.

The references of record do not teach or suggest the aforementioned limitation, nor would it be obvious to modify those references to include such limitation.

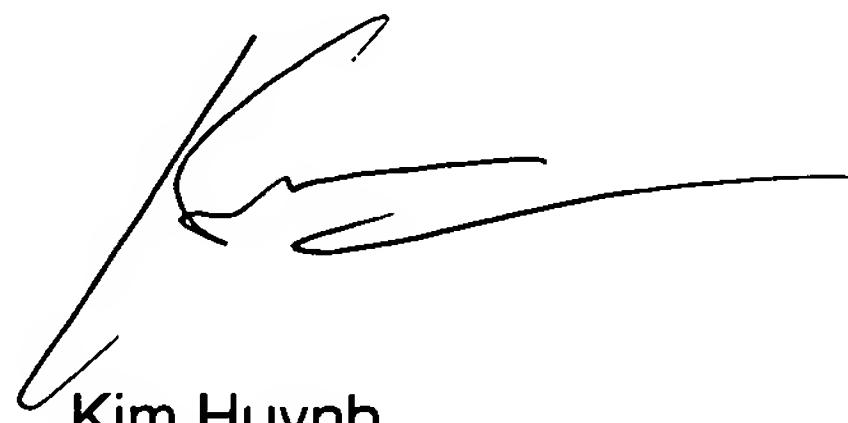
Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ng et al. (WO 2004/029817 A1), Overtoom et al. (US 6,732,218 B2), Yano et al. (US 2004/0036905 A1) and Hanna (US 5,784,581) disclose several USB devices directly communicating with other USB devices operating in both host and device.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Huynh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4147.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kim Huynh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2182

KH
01/11/05